GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2017
Spurious Medicines
Manjhi Shri Hari

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inadequate number of drug testing laboratories is one of the reasons for prevalence of spurious medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of existing mechanism to review the functioning of drug testing laboratories;

(d) whether the Government proposes to spread awareness against spurious medicines, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to reward the whistle blowers and ensure their protection, if so the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) & (b): The prevalence of spurious drugs in the country has been estimated to be 0.0245% in a survey conducted to determine the problem of spurious and not of standard quality drugs in the country (2014-16). The prevalence of such drugs, as such, is very low.

(c): All aspects relating to functioning of Central Drugs testing laboratories are reviewed and monitored regularly by Drugs Controller General (India) and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Similarly, the States/UTs also review the functioning of their laboratories periodically.

(d): The Government is committed to ensuring that the quality, safety and efficacy of drugs are not compromised. With this in view, the Government has taken a series of measures including strengthening legal provisions, workshops and training programmes for manufacturers and regulatory officials and measures such as risk based inspections.

(e):- A Whistler Blower Scheme to encourage vigilant public participation for detection of movement of spurious drugs in the country is already in place. The scheme provides for suitably rewarding informers for providing concrete information to regulatory authorities in respect of movement of NSQ/misbranded/adulterated/spurious drugs.